

AMENDMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS

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Please replace all prior claims in the present application with the following claims, in

which claims 1-6 are currently amended.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Attenuator~~ An attenuator system (10) for adjusting the output power of an HF signal source (1), the attenuator system comprising:  
  
**~~characterised in that~~**  
  
an electronic attenuator; (5) with  
  
a mechanical changeover switch at the an input-end of the electronic attenuator; and  
  
a mechanical changeover switch at the an output-end of the electronic attenuator,  
  
wherein the electronic attenuator (3, 4) is arranged between the signal source (1) and an  
  
output (2), and ~~that these~~ the mechanical changeover switches are configured for  
  
switching to a first can be switched in such a manner, that, in one switching position (I),  
  
wherein the electronic attenuator (5) is connected between the signal source (1) and the  
output (2), and ~~in the other~~ a second switching position (II); wherein a direct bypass line  
(6) is connected between the signal source (1) and the output (2).
2. (Currently Amended) ~~Attenuator~~ An attenuator system according to claim 1, wherein  
  
**~~characterised in that~~**  
  
the direct bypass line (6) is formed as a mechanical attenuator, which ~~can be~~ is switched  
  
~~by means of~~ via mechanical switches between ~~several~~ a plurality of attenuation values.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~Attenuator~~ An attenuator system according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~,  
  
wherein

~~characterised in that~~

the mechanical changeover switches (3,4) are bi-stable coaxial relay changeover switches.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Attenuator~~ An attenuator system according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~,  
wherein

~~characterised in that~~

the mechanical changeover switches (3,4) are transfer switches.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Attenuator~~ An attenuator system according to claim 1 ~~any one of~~  
~~the preceding claims, wherein~~

~~characterised in that~~

the a switchgear for the mechanical changeover switches (3,4) is ~~connected~~ coupled to  
the output-power setting mechanism of the signal source (1) ~~in such a manner that~~  
wherein, above a predetermined output power, the bypass line (6) is connected between  
the signal source (1) and output (2), and below ~~this~~ the predetermined output power, the  
electronic attenuator (5) is connected between the signal source (1) and output (2).

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Attenuator~~ An attenuator system according to claim 1 ~~any one of~~  
~~the preceding claims, wherein~~

~~characterised in that~~

the a switchgear of the mechanical changeover switches (3,4) is coupled ~~connected in~~  
~~such a manner~~ to a an over-voltage detector (9) assigned to the output (2) of the signal  
source (1), ~~that~~ wherein, if a predetermined permitted level is exceeded at the output (2),

the mechanical changeover switch (4) at the output-end disconnects the electronic attenuator (5) from the output (2), and the mechanical changeover switch (3) at the input-end connects the electronic attenuator (5) to the signal source (1).